

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting
Thursday March 28, 7:00 p.m.
Woman's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, California

Pre-Meeting No Host Dinner 5:15
Samoa Cookhouse, Samoa
Call June, 707-443-0604
For a reservation ,
\$18 per person tax and tip included



March 2013

Bob and Judy Mathey; Building The Stone Bridge at Harmony Woods

The Eureka Chapter will meet **March 28th at 7:00 p.m.** at the Eureka Woman's Club 1531 J Street Eureka. We will welcome **Bob and Judy Mathey** who will describe through their talk and excellent pictures **THE AGONY AND ECSTASY OF A DREAM COME TRUE** behind the scenes of creating waterfalls and a stone bridge. From the arrival of the first stones to the christening party, this presentation will take you through the two year construction process of building two separate waterfalls and a stone bridge. You will see the site before construction, experience the preparation, live through cycles of placing major stones and view the end result.

THE GARDENS AT HARMONY WOODS; Judy writes, "We moved to Mendocino from Malibu 21 years ago and have established a wonderful life in this enriching community. We began developing our gardens almost immediately and have watched them grow and expand through the years.

By nature, one of us is a collector and the other intuitively an educator. Nestled into the cathedral of redwoods, the gardens exhibit our penchant for collecting an enormous range of unusual and beautiful plants. The major collections are rhododendron species and conifers, with an additional emphasis on maples and ferns. These are co-mingled with a vast array of plant material in over thirty beds forming a cohesive, interesting and sometimes breathtaking whole. Education is tantamount to the unique significance of our garden. Research, mapping and cataloguing are an integral part of the collection and a way of sharing knowledge with others. All plants are labeled with their botanical names. A visitor can simply enjoy the beauty of the collection or learn from the experience as well.



The way water is integrated into the landscape is unique. Two natural streams border the property to the north and south. Within the garden area, a stream, waterfalls and a stone bridge were constructed in 2006-2007 and appear as though they have existed for ages. All the stone is field stone, not quarried rock, and all areas were hand dug (not back hoed). The stone is laid without visible seams.

Gently falling waters, ever-changing colors and contrasting textures delight and nourish us every day. Visitors experience the vitality but also the peace and tranquility and leave with a sense of wonder and renewal."

Photo submitted by Judy Mathey

Photos are those of the Newsletter editor, June Walsh, unless otherwise noted. Permission is granted to reprint any portion of this publication provided credit to the author and Chapter is given. R. Noyo Chief above is Don Wallace's photo.

Temperamental March

The Romans named this month for Mars, the god of war (it was a traditional time to resume military campaigns), and made it the first month of the Roman year. March is notoriously temperamental weather-wise. According to old weather proverbs, if it comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb.

The month is alive with fast-moving weather systems, tantalizingly warm days, and record-breaking storms.

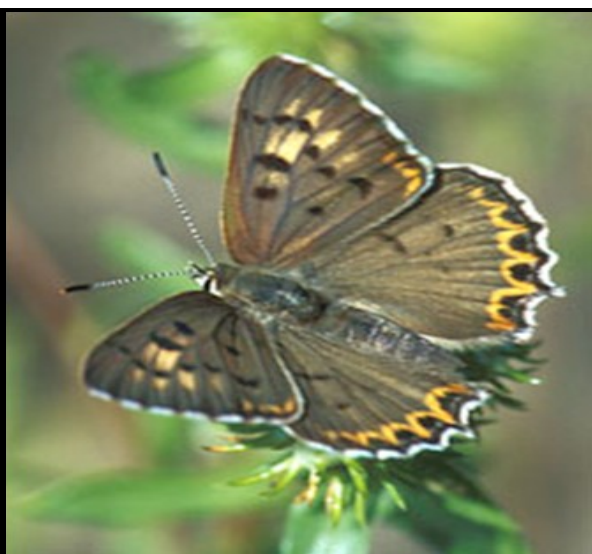
March is the time to declare WAR on WEEDS!

One of my least favorite weeds is Sheep's Sorrel, *Rumex acetosella*. It is a species of sorrel, also known as *Acetosella vulgaris* bearing the common names sheep's sorrel, red sorrel, sour weed, and field sorrel. The plant and its subspecies are common perennial weeds. It has green arrowhead-shaped leaves and red-tinted deeply ridged stems, and it sprouts from an aggressive rhizome. The flowers emerge from a tall, upright stem. Female flowers are maroon in color. Weeding by chopping, pulling or shuffle-hoe seems to encourage its rambunctious growth.

The plant is native to British Isles but has been introduced to most of the rest of the northern hemisphere. In North America it is a common weed in fields, grasslands, and woodlands. It favors moist soil, so it thrives in floodplains and near marshes. It is often one of the first species to take hold in disturbed areas, such as road cuts and new garden plots, especially if the soil is acidic. Livestock will graze on the plant, but it is not very nutritious and contains oxalates which make the plant toxic if grazed in large amounts. Some people add it to salads or make a spring tonic by steeping it, YUCK!

Its redemption in West Coast gardens is that *R. acetosella* is a host plant for *Lycaena xanthoides*, also known as the Great Copper butterfly.

References and photos; Wikipedia and Butterflies and Moths of North America, and local Author Pete Haggard's book Insects of the Pacific Northwest.



Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale

By Mary Marking

The annual show and plant sale is just around the corner **April 27 and 28**.

New for this year will be that all trusses and sprays will be shown in champagne bottles.

Also, there will be an additional group in the **Arrangement Class**. This group will be for miniatures with a size restriction of the arrangement to 8 inches by 8 inches by 8 inches.

Besides the Arrangement class there is a **Photography Class** and **Educational Class** that always could use more entries.

So let's hope for nice weather and great trusses for our show next month.



Plant of the Month *Rhododendron* **'Grace Seabrook'**

By Don Wallace

Here is one of the very best of the red flowering rhododendrons. Created and registered by Cecil S. Seabrook of Tacoma, Washington, *Rhododendron* 'Grace Seabrook' is a hybrid of *R. 'The Honorable Jean Marie de Montague'* x *R. strigillosum*. This combines the great foliage of 'Jean Marie' and the perfect blood-red trusses of *R. strigillosum*. The same cross was done by Frank Mossman, and named 'Taurus'. The only way to tell these plants apart is that the buds of *R. 'Taurus'* are red-

dish in color, while those of *R. 'Grace Seabrook'* are bright green. Both have 'award winning' foliage, and have always won prizes in our flower show. *R. 'Grace Seabrook'* will do well in sun or shade, and seems to be very pest and disease tolerant. You can count on this plant growing to 8 feet tall and 10 feet wide in 15 years, so give it plenty of room. We have *R. 'Grace Seabrook'* planted with the white flowering 'Mt. Fuji' ornamental cherry, and the combination is stunning.

If spring came but once a century instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all the hearts to behold the miraculous change. -Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



Tim Walsh, Denise Braafladt and Ellen Gill (shown at left) were joined by Bruce and Nelda Palmer and June Walsh to collect Tree Ferns, Woodwardia and Deer Ferns from Denise's garden for Humboldt Botanical Garden.



Eureka Chapter/American Rhododendron Society
2050 Irving Drive
Eureka, CA 95503-7022

Eureka Chapter

Eureka Chapter is published monthly except during July and August. Submissions from members are encouraged and should be mailed to June Walsh, Bulletin Editor, 2050 Irving Drive, Eureka, CA 95503-7022. Rhodyhostel@suddenlink.net Membership information and applications are also available from Trish Ortiz. Ars.trish.ortiz@gmail.com Eureka Chapter is a member of the Humboldt Botanical Gardens Foundation, Eureka, Calif., and The Rhododendron Species Foundation, Federal Way, Wash. Eureka Chapter is a chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

Future Programs

March 28, 2013

Judy and Bob “Building a Stone Bridge and Garden Wanderings”

April 25, 2013

Don Selcer, “Plant Hunting in China”

April 26, 27 & 28

Rhododendron Festival Flower Show and Plant Sale

May 23, 2013

Members’ Mini Show and Pizza

June 2, 2013

Members’ Garden Tour and Potluck picnic

Programs and Program dates are subject to change.



Eureka Chapter member Maria Krennek donated over 100 heathers to refurbish the Heather Garden at Humboldt Botanical Garden. Maria, Mary Gearheart, Tim and June Walsh planted the new heathers according to Maria’s tapestry design.

Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members September 2012 to June 2013

Bruce Palmer, President	707-443-8049	bnpalmer@humboldt1.com
Betty Bottemiller, Past President	707-822-4935	bbbettybotts@gmail.com
Tim Walsh, Vice President	707-443-0604	timwalsh1@suddenlink.net
Gail Ledbetter, Secretary	707-822-9678	luvchoc@pacbell.net
June Walsh, Treasurer, Newsletter	707-443-0604	RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net
Trish Ortiz, Membership	707-822-3330	ars.trish.ortiz@gmail.com
Don Wallace, Programs	707-839-8777	donw@singtree.com
Bruce and Nelda Palmer, Show Co-Chairs	707-443-8049	bnpalmer@humboldt1.com
Tom and Mary Marking, Show Co-Chairs	707-839-2073	tmmarking@sbcglobal.net
Ellie Gayner, Publicity	707-443-1291	egayner@hotmail.com
Jerry Reynolds, Director	707-269-9533	jerry_reynolds@suddenlink.net
Max Abrahamsen, Director		rudyabe@aol.com